

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 PM-03 DODE-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 IO-03 L-02 PRS-01 AID-10

SR-01 ORM-01 DPW-01 RSR-01 EUR-10 /082 W

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R 141600Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5946

USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 14688

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, VS

SUBJECT: MR 3 WEEKLY SITREP-AUGUST 5-11, 1973

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON INFO USDAO SAIGON USSAG NKP

THAI AUG 10 REPEATED TO YOU

QUOTE BIEN HOA 0387

1. WAR DIMINISHED SLIGHTLY IN MR 3 DURING WEEK ENDING 0800 AUGUST 10

,  
WITH MR 3 G-2 REPORTING 153 CLASHES COMPARED WITH 160 IN PREVIOUS  
WEEK. CLASHES INCLUDING 33 GROUND CONTACTS, 72 ATTACKS BY FIRE  
(NINE OVER 20 ROUNDS), TWO COORDINATED GROUND/FIRE ATTACKS, 27  
MINE/GRENADE DETONATIONS (FOUR CIVILIAN), EIGHT SMALL ARMS HARASS-  
MENTS, FOUR RAIL INTERDICTIONS, TWO SAPPER ATTACKS, ONE MECHANICAL  
AMBUSH, ONE GROUND TO AIR FIRING, AND ONE AIR STRIKE. (MANY  
OTHER VNAF AIR STRIKES IN PHUOC TUY PROVINCE IN SUPPORT OF RVNAF  
ON INTERPROVINCIAL ROUTE 23 BETWEEN DAT DO AND XUYEN MOC  
DISTRICT TOWNS ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THIS TOTAL). THERE WERE 38  
CLASHES REPORTED IN BINH DUONG PROVINCE; 25 IN PHUOC TUY, 19 IN  
LONG KHANH, 16 IN PHUOC LONG, 12 IN LONG AN, 10 IN HAU NGHIA,  
NINE EACH IN BIEN HOA AND BINH LONG, EIGHT IN GIA DINH, SIX IN  
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TAY NINH, AND ONE IN BINH TUY. GVN LOST 37 KILLED, 129 WOUNDED

(18 CIVILIANS) SIX MISSING, AND SOME EQUIPMENT AND WEAPONS DAMAGES AND DESTROYED; COMMUNISTS REPORTEDLY LOST 70 KILLED (16 BY AIR STRIKES), THREE CAPTURED, FIVE SUSPECTS ARRESTED, AND SOME WEAPONS AND EQUIPMENT. THERE WERE FIVE COMMUNIST RALLIERS TO GVN SIDE, AND ONE ARVN SOLDIER ESCAPED FROM COMMUNIST DETENTION AND REPORTED TO GVN SIDE.

2. AS IN PAST FEW WEEKS, BINH DUONG PROVINCE HAD MOST CLASHES. BUT MOST OF THESE WERE MINOR; COMMUNISTS MADE NO SERIOUS EFFORT TO CLOSE 1-A BELOW PHU GIAO AGAIN, AND RVNAF MADE NO SERIOUS EFFORT TO OPEN 1-A ABOVE PHU GIAO, ALTHOUGH 7TH REGIMENT REPLACED BATTERED 9TH REGIMENT NORTH OF PHU GIAO. IN PHUOC LONG, SOME 15 TRUCKS ARRIVED IN SONG BE FROM MR 2 (REPORTEDLY BAN ME THUOT) WITH SOME 150 RONS OF RICE AND SOME OTHER CIVILIAN SUPPLIES, BUT PROMISED 100-TRUCK MILITARY-CIVILIAN CONVOY FROM CAM RANH HAD NOT MATERIALIZED. GVN ALSO GOT TIN ROOFING TO BO DUC DISTRICT REFUGEES IN RESETTLEMENT SITE IN PHUOC BINH DISTRICT, AIRLIFTING IT INTO DUC PHONG RATHER THAN EASILY SHELLED PHUOC BINH AIRFIELD.

3. IN PHUOC TUY, CONTROL OF ROUTE 23, XUYEN MOC DISTRICT'S ONLY LIFE LINE TO GVN-CONTROLLED TERRITORY, IS BEING CONTESTED BY A BATTALION OF THE NVA 274TH REGIMENT AND THE D445 LOCAL FORCE BATTALION ON THE COMMUNIST

SIDE, AND ELEMENTS OF THE 18TH DIVISION AND THE 355, 326 AND 302 RF BATTALIONS SUPPORTED BY VNAF AIRSTRIKES, ON THE GVN SIDE. AT WEEK'S END, ROUTE WAS OPEN TO CIVILIAN TRAFFIC BUT NOT TO ARVN, AND GVN, WITH LITTLE ADDITIONAL INFANTRY TO SPARE, WAS STILL PUTTING AIRSTRIKES IN.

4. COMMUNISTS MADE IT CLAR THEY DON'T WANT THE RAILROAD REPAIRED AND OPENED BETWEEN XUAN LOC, LONG KHANH PROVINCE, AND BINH TUY PROVINCE. THEY INTERDICTED THE RAILROAD TWICE ON AUGUST 6 AND ONCE AUGUST 8 NEAR XUAN LOC, AND ALSO ON AUGUST 8 A WELL-PLACED MINE ALONG THE TRACK IN BIEN HOA PROVINCE TOOK OUT 80METERS OF TRACK AND CAUSED EXTENSIVE DAMAGE TO THE ENGINE AND TENDER.

5. THE INCREASES IN THE OFFICIAL PRICES OF GASOLINE, KEROSENE,

AND SUGAR CAUSED CONSIDERABLE DISRUPTION OF MR 3 MARKETS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE WEEK. FOR SOME REASON, THE PRICE OF RICE IS UP AGAIN; LONG KHANH REPORTED AN INCREASE FROM 16,000\$VN TO 22,000  
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\$VN FOR A 100-KILO BAG OF GOOD RICE DURING THE WEEK, AND A WOMAN TRIED TO SELL ONE OF HER FOUR CHILDREN TO CONGEN'S LONG KHANH DEVELOPMENT OFFICER. PRESIDENT THIEU'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE VAT WILL BE REDUCED AND ADJUSTED WAS WELCOME, BUT ECONOMIC SITUATION IN MR 3 IS NOT GOOD AND NOT IMPROVING.

6. POPULAR ENTHUSIASM FOR AUGUST 26 UPPER HOUSE ELECTION IS UNDER COMPLETE CONTROL. PROVINCE AUTHORITIES ARE DOING THEIR CUSTOMARY THOROUGH ADMINISTRATIVE JOB IN REGISTERING VOTERS AND

PUBLICIZING ELECTION DATE AND VOTING PROCEDURES, BUT LACK OF  
REAL CONTEST, AND PERCEIVED IRRELEVANCE OF ELECTION TO GUT ECONOMIC  
AND SECURITY ISSUES, HAS LEFT VOTERS COLD. NEVERTHELESS MOST  
PROVINCE OFFICIALS ARE PREDICTING 80-90 PERCENT TURNOUT,  
AND THEY HAVE ENOUGH ADMINISTRATIVE LEVERS AT THEIR COM-  
MAND TO INDUCE MOST REGISTERED VOTERS TO GO TO THE POLLS.  
PRO-GOVERNMENT DEMOCRACY AND WHITE ELEPHANT SLATES, OPENLY  
AIDED IN MANY PROVINCES BY GVN OFFICIALS, ARE OFF TO  
STRONG START AND ARE EXPECTED TO WIN IN ALL MR 3 PROVINCES,  
BUT RICE SHEVES (SLATE 3) POSTERS ARE IN EVIDENCE IN  
BIEN HOA AND GIA DINH, AND BEGAN APPEARING LATE IN THE  
WEEK IN TAY NINH, HAU NGHIA, AND BINH DUONG. A FEW  
PEOPLE'S SELF DETERMINATION POSTERS ARE BEGINNING TO APPEAR.

SIGNED WALKINSHAW UNQUOTE  
MARTIN

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## Message Attributes

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